

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 71

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to the Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 15, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 36, Berryhill. Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 152 in the County of Madera as the Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, William “Bill” S. Whitehurst was a prominent Fresno businessman, civic leader, philanthropist, and devoted and generous member of the community, actively involved in local organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Knights of Columbus, the Fresno Arts Center, and Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was born on July 15, 1922, to Anna Feusi and Joel Whitehurst in Sacramento, and that same year the family moved to Los Banos to open a funeral home; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst, his brother, Joel, and his sister, Betty, graduated from Los Banos High School, where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball while maintaining straight As; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst received a football scholarship from St. Mary’s College of California in Moraga, which is administered by the De LaSalle Christian Brothers; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst cherished his time at St. Mary’s College and throughout his lifetime provided scholarships to the students of St. Mary’s and San Joaquin Memorial High School, which is also administered by Christian Brothers; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Bill Whitehurst received the Christian Brothers’ prestigious award of Signum Fidei for his outstanding participation in the goals of higher education; and

WHEREAS, After assuming ownership of his family’s Whitehurst Chapel at 18 years of age, Bill Whitehurst served two years overseas during World War II in the United States Army and was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst has demonstrated a lifetime of public service and a commitment to his community, beginning with his election to the Los Banos City Council at 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was selected county campaign chairman for Governor Edmund G. Brown's bid for Governor in 1962, and as county campaign chairman for John F. Kennedy in 1960 and Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 in their bids for the presidency; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst was appointed to the State Highway Commission in 1963 and served until 1970, where he spearheaded a drive to transform State Highway Route 152, then a dangerous two-lane highway known as "Blood Alley" due to numerous traffic accidents, into a safer four-lane highway; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Bill Whitehurst was given the Department of Veterans Affairs Citation of Merit for his ongoing generosity shown by his performing burials of disabled veterans who died at a Veterans Affairs hospital at a cost not exceeding the Veterans Administration's allowance; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, and through the year 2012, Bill Whitehurst extended that courtesy to any veteran who died under difficult financial circumstances; and

WHEREAS, From 1971 to 1972, Bill Whitehurst served two terms as President of the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, From 1973 to 1982, Bill Whitehurst served as a member of the Saint Agnes Medical Center Board of Trustees and helped drive the movement to relocate the medical center to its current location in north Fresno. To do this, Bill Whitehurst helped secure the donation of the 30-acre property and generously donated his own money to the building fund; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Bill Whitehurst developed the Safe-D Program to help young teenagers improve their driving skills and become more aware of the obligations and responsibilities of driving a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Bill Whitehurst remained devoted to his church, and in 1989 received the prestigious Benemerenti medal from Pope John Paul II, for outstanding service to his church, his community, and to families in need; and

WHEREAS, On July 20, 2000, Bill Whitehurst and his wife, Ann, conveyed to the Fresno County Office of Education the property known as Scout Island, a parcel that was key in developing the San Joaquin River Parkway and is now used as an outdoor education center; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitehurst continued his commitment to the community by serving on the St. John's Cathedral Restoration project, helping to raise the needed moneys necessary to keep the historic cathedral, which is located in Fresno, a jewel for the entire San Joaquin Valley; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the portion of State Highway Route 152 between its intersection with State Highway 233 and its intersection with State Highway 99 (Postmile 10.799 to Postmile 15.622) in the County of Madera is hereby designated as the Bill Whitehurst Memorial Highway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this special designation

and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for appropriate distribution.

O